DC COMICS
THE NEW 52!
#1
NIGHTWING
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RATED T TEEN
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dccomics.com
ROD REIS

I've spent a lot of time in a lot of places. Kind of a given, growing up in a traveling circus.
But that's only part of the reason why living in Gotham City for the last year has been strange.
The other part is that, for almost a year, I've been filling in as **Batman** while Bruce Wayne was...away.
Which makes it so exciting that for the first time in a long time--

—I'm finally me again.
Dick Grayson—NIGHTWING!
DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS
NIGHTWING in
Welcome to
GOTHAM
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Say what you will about Bruce Wayne, if you spend a year wearing either one of his "suits" you're going to come out stronger.
That is, assuming it doesn't drive you mad.
I was good at the job, but the city started to change around me.
Six months ago, a murder in this part of town was unheard of.
But now?
But I can handle it.
This is the third psycho I've fought this week.
Even back when I was Robin, my mechanics were always great. I mean, I grew up an acrobat.
TKK
Inside the car a second before we hit the tunnel.
Perfect.
Now they're flawless.
KSSHHH
Being Batman taught me a lot about myself.
KSSHH

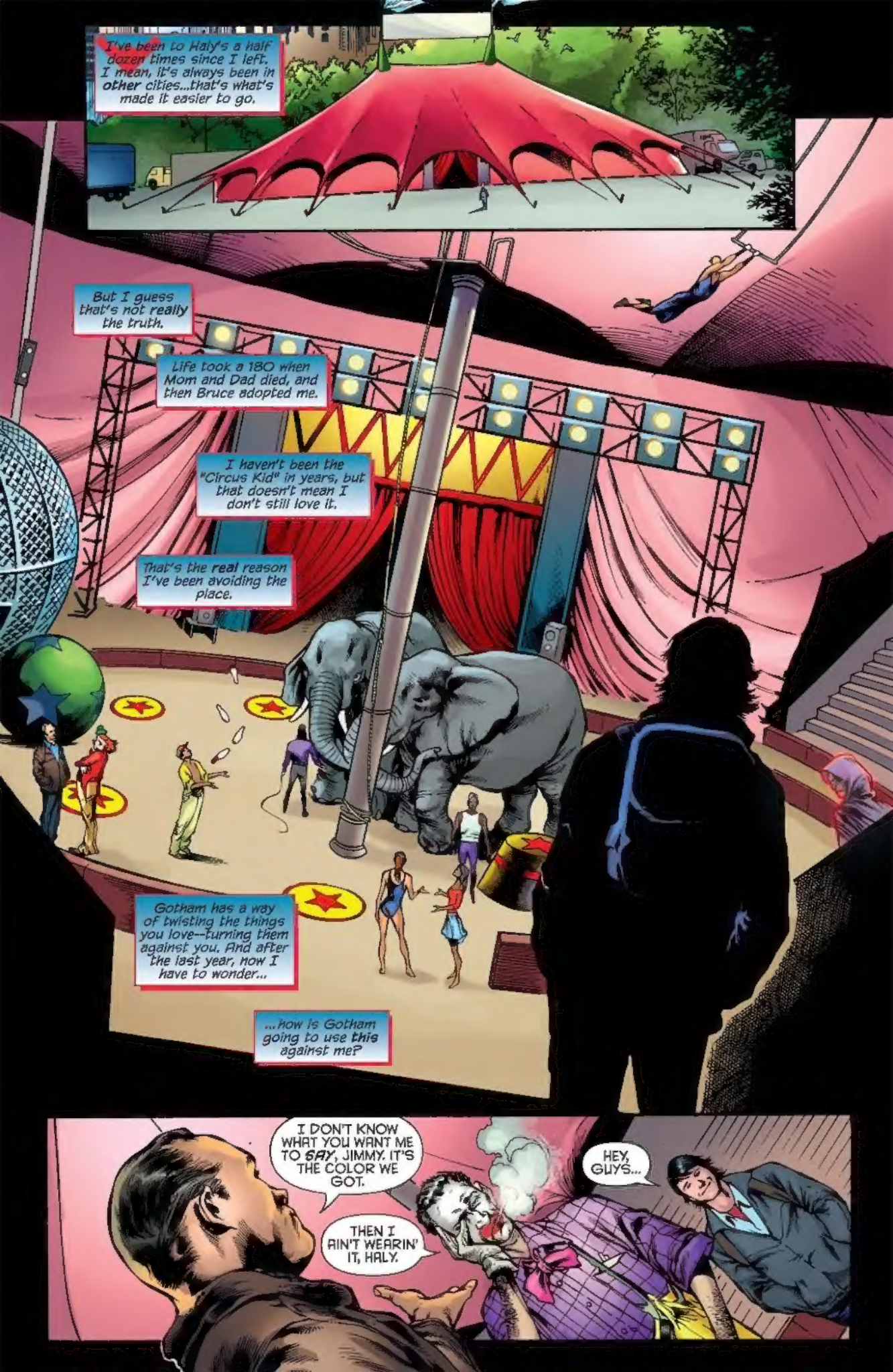
The city has thrown its worst at me.
HN!
It's taken its best shot...
KRAK
...twisted creations and all.
UHN!
But I'm still standing. I'm still here.
Now, Gotham has nothing that can scare me.

Or at least, that's what I keep telling myself.
Haly's Circus, back in town for the first time since Tony Zucco cut the wires on my parents' trapeze... since he killed them.
Starting me on the path to who I am now.
I've passed their tent the last three nights, on my way home from patrol.
I know I should go...to see everyone...
Just when I've set up my new life, my old one comes back.
Well played, Gotham.

PORT AUTHORITY, GOTHAM.
HEY! WHERE YOU FROM, MAN?
OH, NOT AROUND HERE WITH THOSE SHADES...
THEY ARE NICE.
I'M THINKING A GUY LIKE YOU, YOU DON'T NEED NO SHADES AT NIGHT.
I'M SORRY?
HEY, YOU COME TO GOTHAM, YOU GOTTA PAY THE TOLL.
HOW 'BOUT YOU DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND HAND THOSE OVER?
REALLY?
THAT'S LIFE IN THE CITY, MAN.

UHN!
NO--
SNAP
KRAK
PEASE--GAWD, PEASE--
I ALWAYS DID LIKE THIS CITY.

Only moved in a few weeks ago, but I really dig the new loft.
The mansion and the penthouse were never really my style, and they were always so far away from the action.
This is anything but the "garden spot" of the city, but that's kind of the point.
Why live in the best part of town when you're trying to save the worst part?
Bruce and I never agreed on that, though.
Guess that's part of what makes us different.
That, and our eating habits.
We'll add "costume display" to that list, as well.
And yet for all our differences...
...I'm standing here letting my past scare me too.


I've been to Haly's a half dozen times since I left. I mean, it's always been in other cities...that's what's made it easier to go.
But I guess that's not really the truth.
Life took a 180 when Mom and Dad died, and then Bruce adopted me.
I haven't been the "Circus Kid" in years, but that doesn't mean I don't still love it.
That's the real reason I've been avoiding the place.
Gotham has a way of twisting the things you love--turning them against you. And after the last year, now I have to wonder...
...how is Gotham going to use this against me?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ME TO SAY, JIMMY. IT'S THE COLOR WE GOT.
THEN I AIN'T WEARIN' IT, HALY.
HEY, GUYS...

DICK GRAYSON! YOU ARE ALIVE! THE BET WAS TWENTY-TO-ONE YOU'D SHOW--YOU OWE ME.
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR DAD ADD IT TO MY TAB.
NAH, HE STEPPED DOWN SIX MONTHS AGO. I'M THE BOSS NOW, BUDDY.
WOW... I HADN'T HEARD. CONGRATULATIONS, BRYAN. THAT'S GREAT.
AND HOW ABOUT YOU, JIMMY? HOW YA BEEN?
HOW DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN, GRAYSON? I'M A CLOWN DOIN' A SHOW IN GOTHAM.
TERRIBLE.
STILL TEMPERAMENTAL?
ALWAYS.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME, DICK...WE ALL UNDERSTAND.
I WANTED TO SEE EVERYONE... IT JUST TOOK A LITTLE LONGER TO GET HERE.
REALLY? THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING WITH?
NOT "I'VE BEEN BUSY DESPERATELY TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE TO CUT MY HAIR"?
RAYA...?

I THOUGHT BRUCE WAYNE KEPT A STYLIST IN HOUSE 'ROUND THE CLOCK?
NAH, SOMETIMES HE GETS THE DAY OFF.
WAIT... ARE YOU BACK WITH HALY'S?
WELL IT'S...KIND OF A LONG STORY.
HAVE YOU MET MARC? HE'S OUR NEW CATCHER.
DICK GRAYSON.
YEAH, I HEARD ABOUT YOU, MAN. I JUST WANT TO SAY, IT REALLY SUCKS WHAT HAPPENED.
REALLY, MARC...?
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN--
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WE'RE ABOUT TO HEAD UP TO THE WIRES--IF YOU WANTED TO WORK OUT...?
OH, UH, I'M NOT SURE I CAN...
OH, COME ON GRAYSON.../ YOU FORGET WHERE YOU'RE FROM ALREADY?

The second I get back on the bar, it's like I never left.
Can't look too good.
As far as they know, I haven't been keeping up with my acrobatics.
ALL RIGHT-- BACK TO WORK, PEOPLE! LET'S GET BACK TO WORK!
...and how many people.
Because at the end of the day, my past isn't my biggest weakness, it's my biggest strength--it's what makes me who I am.
And no matter what Gotham throws at me, that's something it can never take away.
By the time I hit the net, I realize--I spent so much time worrying about the city using this place against me, that I forgot how many things I'd come to miss about it...

I need home after promising Raya we'll catch up.
The show's only in town a few days, but who knows? Redheads do drive me crazy.
Right, Dick...
...cause you've got that kind of luck.
WHAT THE--
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, MR. GRAYSON.
Braded weapons, head-to-toe body armor...
...everything about this guy screams "hired killer."
WHOA!
Need to find a way to distract him.
GOOD-- MAKE THIS A FIGHT.
FREEZE!
Here we go.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
You see enough super-villains, you shoot first and ask questions later.
Trigger-happy patrolmen.

Just hope the cops can hold this guy off long enough...
...For me to make a wardrobe change.
OH--
HRK!
GRGG!
Dammit. This is on me.

I should have been paying more attention--should have seen the attack coming.
ARGH!
ALL RIGHT, NEW RULES.
YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, AND I ONLY BREAK YOUR LITTLE CLAWS.
AND YOUR JAW.
SO THE ORPHAN PRINCE HAS A "HERO" LOOKING AFTER HIM.
MY SUGGESTION, "HERO"--
--STAY OUT OF THIS.
SORRY, YOUR WHOLE "KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE" ANGLE IS GOING TO PREVENT THAT.
Up the fire escape like it's nothing.
He's fast, whoever he is. Even faster than me.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE PROTECTING.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHY SOMEBODY HIRED YOU TO KILL HIM?
NOW I'M CURIOUS.
GRAYSON ISN'T INNOCENT...
...DICK GRAYSON IS THE FIERCEST KILLER IN ALL OF GOTHAM. AND HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT.
WHA--?
Ok, that's a new one.
He catches me off guard, and I miss that his next move isn't aimed at me--
OOF!
--it's aimed at the water tower behind me.
Stupid, Dick.

UNNG!
I feel a rib go...and then another.
Getting tough...to breathe.
Did I mention how good it is to be "me" again?
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